

## Book Reviews

---

### What We Hold in Our Hands

Kim Aubrey

Bradford, ON: Demeter Press, 2013

REVIEWED BY JUDY BATTAGLIA

*What We Hold in Our Hands* is just that: a tangible, formidable, globe of possibilities that would ordinarily be described as a fleeting moment in time. A yearning for a nostalgia that is familiar yet foreign. In Aubrey's settings, we find something recognizable in the small towns she describes, even if we are from larger cities. It is her imagination and her character development that bring each story into its resonant place in the sun. In the tradition of Alice Munro, Anton Chekov, and Katherine Mansfield, Aubrey's short fiction feels impressionist in its nature.

The interiority of the story, "Eating Water," speaks to the reader and leaves an impression long after the reader finishes the piece. The author plays with notions of liminality—the space between child and adult; she also experiments with the idea of choosing to be childish in a somewhat toxic world/life environment/habitus. Instead of calling the story, "Breathing Water" or "Swallowing Water" the author christens the story, "Eating Water." Aubrey begins the piece with the speaker's mother crossing her daughter's tiny gingham print overalls twice as she dresses her for a family outing at the beach, since the speaker (the young child, now grown older and more reflective of her past) is "So small, so slight, even the breeze could have swept me away"